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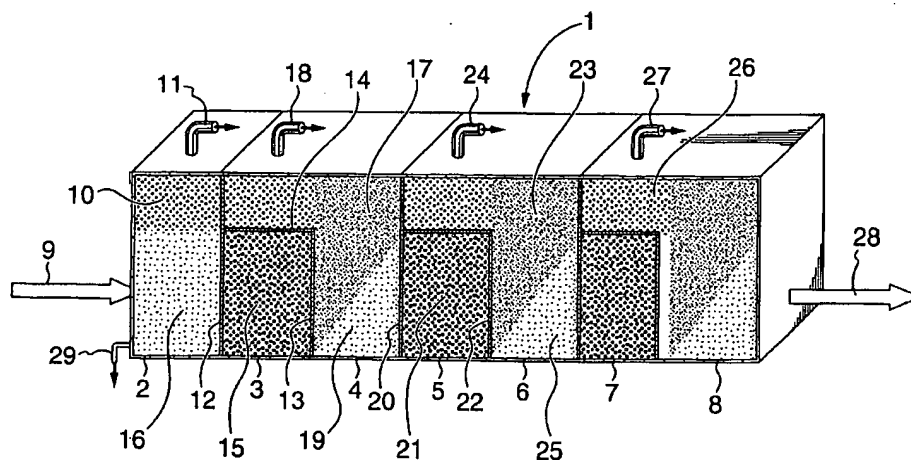
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: POLYURETHANE OIL DE-EMULSIFICATION UNIT



(57) Abstract: A process for separating an aqueous emulsion including an aqueous phase and a non-aqueous phase into separated aqueous and non-aqueous phases, to provide a recovered non-aqueous phase, and to provide a recovered aqueous phase containing an acceptable level of the non-aqueous phase. In the process, at least one body, and preferably two or more bodies, of polymeric material with a high surface area, typically a foam material or polymer chips, is used in a horizontal flow treatment system to break the emulsion and thus provide both the aqueous and non-aqueous phases as two separate flows. A wide range of polymers can be used in the system as the polymeric material including polyurethane, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyester, and polyethylene. If a very low level of non-aqueous phase in the effluent is required, for example to meet potable water standards, then a Kozlowski polyurethane, as described in US 5,239,040, is preferred as the last polymeric material body.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B01D17/04 B01D17/022 B01D17/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	GB 1 418 806 A (CONTINENTAL OIL CO) 24 December 1975 (1975-12-24) the whole document ---	1-4
X	US 4 213 863 A (ANDERSON JOSEPH W) 22 July 1980 (1980-07-22) the whole document ---	1-4
X	US 3 738 492 A (TRILLICH C) 12 June 1973 (1973-06-12) column 5; figures 1-4 ---	1,2,6,7, 9
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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X	US 3 797 666 A (AZUMA S ET AL) 19 March 1974 (1974-03-19) figures 1,4 ---	1,2,6
A	US 4 115 266 A (OHSHIMA KATSUTOSHI) 19 September 1978 (1978-09-19) figures 6,7 ---	1-9
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